

For RELEASE:

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SARGENT'S PRIVATE WORLD
AT CLEVELAND ART MUSEUM

An exhibition opening July 8 at The Cleveland Museum of Art explores a region masked behind the fashionable surfaces of elegant portraiture in "The Private World of John Singer Sargent."¹¹

The 165 works to be shown include oils, watercolors, drawings, prints and sculpture. They may be seen through August 16. The exhibition was assembled from public and private collections in the United States, England, France and Switzerland, by Donelson F. Hoopes, Curator of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Mr. Hoopes is also the author of the illustrated catalog which accompanies the exhibition. He will present an introduction to the exhibition at The Cleveland Museum of Art auditorium on Wednesday evening, July 8, at 8:15 p.m. The public will be admitted free of charge.

The purpose of the exhibition is expressed by Mr. H. W. Williams, Jr., Director of the Corcoran Gallery, in his forward to the catalog: ". . . We have attempted to treat in full an important aspect of (Sargent's) career which has heretofore received only secondary attention (and at the same time) we hope to have pointed the way for a critical re-evaluation of Sargent's contribution."¹¹

Sargent (1856-1925) is considered one of America's most richly talented artists, but since he did not contribute significantly to the modern movement, he has languished in relative obscurity. He was, in fact, according to Hoopes, working toward a new realism -- one that required a particular quality of light, one that hinted at Impressionism in color and technique, and yet, unlike Impressionism, did not sacrifice clarity of drawing or design.

Sargent, born of American parents in Florence, Italy, and raised in various European countries, was thoroughly schooled in solid, academic technique. Sargent's talent focused upon portraiture from which he later earned his livelihood, first in France, then in England and America. In 1909 he renounced portraiture and continued with an even greater zeal to produce, during his remaining years, most successful landscapes and genre scenes.

The exhibition will travel next to the Worcester Art Museum, Massachusetts, and will conclude at the Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, Utica, New York.